

# Other ambush hunters



Ambush predators are creatures that gather mobile food by relying on their own speed and the relative positioning of their prey (Greene, 1986). These predators are often quite different

morphologically and physiologically from cruising predators/active hunters (Greene, 1986). Ambush Predators are spread across the taxonomic scale, with each one sharing a large discrepancy from the other. It is due to these divergent aspects that marine ambush predators are found in each section of the water column (Wearmouth et al., 2014). From the Barracuda of the tropical regions to the Stonefish that prefers the colder waters of the Northern Hemisphere. In the Wadden Sea, a great deal of its ambush predators are found at the benthic and demersal level of the water column. This study makes the distinction here for inclusion as 'Other ambush hunters', as ambush hunters that are not part of the Order of flatfish (Pleuronectiforms) or Anglerfish (*Lophius sp.*). This is because these Orders are mentioned in their own background information rapport. Therefore, species such as Greater pipefish (*Syngnathus acus*), short-snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus hippocampus*), and rocklings (*Lotidae sp.*) are included in this informative report (Gittenberger et al., 2015; Pinnegar et al., 2008; Polte & Buschbaum, 2009). Some species within this group are considered migratory (Gittenberger et al., 2015; Pinnegar et al., 2008; Polte & Buschbaum, 2009). This study found no evidence of invasive species within this group.

## History/ Population trends

With the near disappearance of Seagrass (*Zostera sp.*) in the Wadden Sea, many ambush hunters that made this habitat their home have disappeared alongside the Seagrass (Polte & Buschbaum, 2008). Short-snouted seahorses and snake pipefish (*Entelurus aequoreus*) were amongst the species that had nearly disappeared from the Wadden Sea (Polte & Buschbaum, 2009; Pinnegar et al., 2008). However, largely due to the arrival of Japanese seaweed (*Sargassum muticum*) many of these species are returning (Polte & Buschbaum, 2009; Pinnegar et al., 2008). This is positive for human activities as well, for this could cause an increase in tourism.

## Miscellaneous

- Pipefish (*Syngnathidae sp.*) and seahorses (*Hippocampus sp.*) are among the very few ambush predator species that have high parental care from the male part of the species (Wilson & Orr, 2011).

## Diet

- Zooplankton (Diderich, 2006; Greene, 1986; Wearmouth et al., 2014)
- Sandeel (Diderich, 2006; Greene, 1986; Wearmouth et al., 2014)
- Sprat (Diderich, 2006; Greene, 1986; Wearmouth et al., 2014)
- Cannibalism (Diderich, 2006; Greene, 1986; Wearmouth et al., 2014)
- Bivalves (Diderich, 2006; Greene, 1986; Wearmouth et al., 2014)
- Annelida (Diderich, 2006; Greene, 1986; Wearmouth et al., 2014)

## Sources

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